



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich  
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

April 30, 2023

TO: Evan Glass, President, Montgomery County Council  
Chair Andrew Friedson, Councilmember Will Jawando, Councilmember Natali Fani-Gonzalez, Planning, Housing and Parks Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich, County Executive *Marc Elrich*

SUBJECT: Remove all funding in the Parks' CIP—contained in LOE PDFs, including PLAR: NL Parks and Vision Zero—for Parks' plan to close two lanes of Little Falls Parkway.

I request that the Planning, Housing and Parks Committee and the Council remove the funding for the recently approved plan by the Planning Board to close two lanes of Little Falls Parkway permanently. From the beginning, the project has been mired in controversy, with thousands of residents petitioning for relief, and hundreds asking the Council to remove the entire project from the CIP. Residents, who have had to drive on the temporary two-lane reconfiguration, are rightly concerned with the safety of the new road, and with Parks' moving forward with the project without appropriate input from affected residents. I wrote the Planning Board to express these concerns.

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OPI/Resources/Files/pdf/2023/CELetter\\_LittleFallsParkway.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OPI/Resources/Files/pdf/2023/CELetter_LittleFallsParkway.pdf)

In the eleventh hour, the Parks Department recommended that some of the safety features that the public requested be added to the permanent two-lane version of Little Falls Parkway. It is only fair that those additions are given serious vetting with the public. The proposed additions alone are not sufficient to meet the test that Chair Friedson set in his April 26 letter to the Planning Board: **“Unless Park and Planning staff can clearly and measurably demonstrate that the new two-lane condition is safer than the pre-pandemic condition with two lanes separated by a median, I don’t see a strong enough argument to dedicate the resources necessary to permanently implement this change.”** [Emphasis in original.] Parks has not shown that. I agree with Chair Friedson. I would deny the funding for this ill-conceived project.

Cc: Jeff Zyontz, Montgomery County Planning Board Chair; Michael Riley, Director, Montgomery Parks